



MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

November 3, 2021

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512
Game Room
&
Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkgvSHFXeUxzMkNlRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>

1. ***Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair- Hawah Ahmad.
2. ***Roll Call** – Hawah Ahmad asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Martha Lavin
Barbara Korosa
Ethan Hovest
Linda Hardie
Rick Sorensen

Pamela Roberts
Sarah Deardorff
Hawah Ahmad
Mary Ann McCauley

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

* James Doyle
* Deborah Whitehouse
* Casey Reed

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Steve McBride
Abby Willrich
Amber Howell

Sandra Vasquez
Herbert Kaplan (DA)

ADVISOR PRESENT

Dr. Larry Weiss
Donna Clontz

ADVISOR (ABSENT)

Victoria Edmondson
Connie McMullen

3. ***Public Comment** –

Debbie Gunderman stated she represents the Washoe County Library System. They are fully open to the public and they are starting to offer programs. One of their focuses is toward the senior community.

4. ***Member Announcements** –

None.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on November 3, 2021 (For Possible Action)

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Linda Hardie.
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on September 1, 2021 (For Possible Action)

Pamela Roberts stated item 13 on the last word should be 'member', not 'chair'. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Linda Hardie and seconded by Rick Sorensen. Sarah Deardorff abstained due to not being present. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from the Advisory Board Meeting on September 24, 2021 (For Possible Action)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Martha Lavin.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. *Update on approval from the Board of County Commissioners of the Senior Advisory Board appointments – Steve McBride, Division Director

Steve stated they have had very busy Board items with filling in the vacancies. There is currently only a vacancy in District 2. All Board recommendations were approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

9. *Update on the American Rescue Plan Act funding for Washoe County – Amber Howell, Human Services Director

Attachment: [11-03-21 SAB FUNDING PRIORITIES.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Amber reports she and Steve McBride met with Donna Clontz and Larry Weiss and they spoke about the overall process with the American Recovery Funds. Washoe County received \$90 million, which is \$45 million for each of the next 2 years. The state of Nevada also received around \$60 billion and they have been doing listening sessions and also have a survey for people to provide their feedback. When Amber met with Donna and Larry, they came up with 4 areas of funding priorities, see attachment. Amber stated for HSA, affordable housing is a high priority as well as the homemaker support program. Currently there is 100 people on the waitlist. Amber asked the group to look at the list and give their feedback. They need to get a letter from the Board with their recommendations by the end of November. Hawah asked if in their discussion they calculated the housing navigator/real estate expert and increase in homemaker slots. Amber stated they would need to double homemaker services, and she would need to talk with Abby and Steve in regard to the cost. Hawah asked if they have explored other sources of money so that they don't just run out of funds after the 2 years. Amber stated it is something to consider.

10. *Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee - Donald Abbott

Donald stated Marsy is the Nevada Senior Citizen of the Year. Through the SSCAC recommendation, the Sparks City Council approved the AARP Livable Communities in last week's meeting. Also, the senior center in Sparks is still open and if any seniors would like to go, it's open.

11. *Update on Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Paco Lachoy

Paco not present to report.

12. *Discussion of the WCHSASAB ideas and recommendations for projects using the American Rescue Plan Act funding for Washoe County's older adults

Attachments: [Nevada Recovers Survey Page 1 -2 \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)
[11-03-21 SAB FUNDING PRIORITIES.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Ethan stated there may be a benefit to seniors for a program where they can get help getting medications due to lack of transportation. Sarah agrees, many times there is a cost associated with the service. Sarah states there is also a need for tech services help for seniors. Rick stated they offer iPhone classes at TMCC; the City of Reno approached the college to have classes for seniors to teach them how to use the phones. Hawah asked if the library offers tech help. Debbie from the public stated that they don't have classes, but they will be offering classes in the Spring. Although, if someone comes in asking for help with their phone or tablet, they will help them navigate their device. Donna stated that the Funding Priorities (see attachment) Training section, second bullet, could be expanded to include such things as train the trainer and even providing the equipment or help seniors get the free smart phones. It would be good to draft something to include Sparks seniors and Washoe County seniors. Pam stated it may be good to think about training ambassadors; have technology ambassadors who would assist their peers on how to use technology. Hawah asked if there was any information on homelessness. Steve stated he can get some data on demographics from the shelter operations at Our Place and can provide an update in a future meeting. Amber stated Our Place has a senior wing and 20% of the occupants are between 55-61 years old. Hawah asked if there is a cost analysis, Amber replied there is not a cost analysis at the moment because there is no ceiling amount. Amber stated the Board would need to have a recommendation letter by the end of November. Pam asked if they could form a small committee to form the letter. Herbert advises against committees. Amber stated she can get ideas from the Board and staff can draft the letter. Linda stated technology issues are a priority. Amber stated they are only looking at \$45million and then next year would be the other \$45million. Hawah stated it would be good to have a special meeting on November 15th at 9am. Herb stated it would be good to have 2 people draft the letter and have it ready for the November 15th special meeting. Mary Ann volunteered to write the letter. Ethan stated in terms of content it would be good to ask for money for a van, a consultation for a psychologist, money for gadgets, and extending the amount of funds for homemaker program. Hawah would like the housing navigator as well. Ethan stated this letter would be the same letter that would be sent to the governor's office. Hawah stated that the letter that would go to the governor's office would have workforce development and homemaker, for this letter it would be nutritional and homelessness services to the senior community. Hawah stated to summarize they are asking for technology training to have tech ambassador train the trainer and purchase some equipment. Have a service to pick up medications and have transportation available to make a trip to pick up medication and have transportation for behavioral health. Another recommendation is to increase funding in the nutritional program which include home delivered meals and congregate meals. Regarding housing, have ongoing case management, including emergency assistance for housing and disability repairs or other types of repairs. Larry recommended that to deal with low income and moderate-income seniors to have a staff person to generate tax credits to rental landlords.

13. *Discussion of plans for Older Americans Month 2022

Donna stated it will be May 2022 and the agency that comes up with a theme hasn't released next year's theme. They wanted to give people time to think about it and remember that the

Reno Center hosts an opening event for over 50 participating agencies. Rick stated not to forget Stuff-A-Bus. Steve stated the last 2 years were quite different and hopefully something can be worked out for events to be either virtual or in person. Sarah stated there were great events in previous years.

14. *Discussion of plans for Stuff-A-Bus 2022

Steve stated it's a popular event and Sam's Club has been a great partner. They will need to reach out again and work with Chris Ciarlo, Communications Director.

15. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action) – Donna Clontz

Donna stated as Donald Abbott described, the Sparks Senior Advisor Committee voted to create an age friendly Sparks and the Council approved it unanimously to move forward with being Age Friendly. Reno has been working on it for about 3 years. She and Larry would like the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to go forward and support to be Age Friendly. Donna also reports that the Age Friendly Action Committee is using the ARPA structure to implement some of the ideas. Everyone is thinking along the lines of engaging policy makers to make senior life easier. It would be good to put in a future agenda to see about a BCC Age Friendly approval.

16. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding the Friendly Visitor Calls project to selected Washoe County seniors (For Possible Action)

Donna stated nothing has changed and they are calling about 20 people and would like more callers and people to call. Larry stated that the people he calls are highly appreciative of the calls. Donna stated there is a project called the Hello Project and it will be hosting events in the 89512-zip code. The first event is this Saturday from 9am-11am at this senior center (Reno). Abby stated that they will keep the Hello Project events consistent by hosting them at the Reno Center. Pam asked how people can connect with callers; Donna replied that they can call Washoe County Senior Services and sign up to receive the calls.

17. *Report, discussion, and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)

Attachment: [11-03-21 Joint Goals Wrksht.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](https://www.washoecounty.gov)

Linda stated she followed the nutrition program, and the Mobile Harvest food distribution went from walk up service to drive up and now they are switching back to walk up. It looks like the food programs are going back to normal. Larry stated the Hello Project event will have food available for distribution. Sarah stated the Sanford Center for the Aging also has nutrition programs. There are also chef videos that show how to cook healthy.

18. *Report and discussion on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings

Attachment: [11-03-21 Monthly Washoe County Public Meetings Chart.pdf](https://www.washoecounty.gov)

Donna stated she attended the Reno Housing meeting and also reported the Sparks City Council meeting spoke on Age Friendly and ARPA funds.

19. *Advisory Board Members' announcements, reports and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Advisory Board Members will take place on this item.)

Hawah would like to add item 13, 14, 15 and Debbie Gunderman to go over services at the library.

20. *Public comment –

None.

21. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion to adjourn was made by Linda Hardie and seconded by Mary Ann McCauley. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.